

Gillaspey

413 E. Main, Apt. 1  
Lamoni, IA 50140  
Nov. 23, 1990

Carl J. Bendorf  
Field Reports Editor  
Iowa City, Ia.

Dear Sir,

I have some brief reports for the fall period -

**Short-eared Owl--** A small flock has been observed at a location five miles NW of Lamoni since about November 1. Nov. 15 Paul Griffiths reports that when driving past the field in darkness a total of six owls flew up from the roadside. At 4:15 P.M. Nov. 15 my wife and I were observing the field and we counted a total of fifteen owls in the air at one time. There were possibly more in the grass or over the hill. This is a common exhibition of fun and frolic the birds put on display before scattering out over the fields for the nightly hunting. There are many acres in the conservation reserve in Southern Iowa this year and the knee high unmowed grass provides good hunting for the birds.

**Kestrel ---**In this part of the state beef cattle raising is a main industry. Many farmers now use ground level pile of corn silage held by a five foot high row of big bales of hay on each side. Both the silage and the rows of hay attract countless numbers of mice.

If a tree or a utility wire is nearby we can generally expect to see a Kestrel perched there watching for a good meal.

Occasionally there will be a SHRIKE.

**Gray Partridge--** Harold and Kurt Green report seeing four of the birds 4 miles NW of Lamoni in early november. They seem to be growing in numbers in this part of the state.

**Red-tailed Hawk--** Good numbers this year. On any short drive can expect to see 2 to 5 perched along highway. The large acreage of conservation reserve provides good hunting for them also.

This is a short list, but hope it can be of some value.

Good birding,

*J. Donald Gillaspey*  
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